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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUBJECT: New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) celebrates National Nursing Home Week, May 13 to 19, 2007

TILTON, NH - When the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) was selected from 88 other New Hampshire Nursing Homes to win a 2007 Quality of Life Award in April, NHVH resident and Vietnam vet David Clark hollered "We are worldmakers!" at the ceremony in Concord.

Referring to comments by keynote speaker Dr. Bill Thomas, Clark echoed the philosophy embraced by the Veterans Home, which champions the transformation of nursing homes into vibrant centers of care and companionship.

Anne Howe, RN, Director of Resident Care Services, says, "National Nursing Home Week gives us a chance to continue sharing our conviction that of all the things we accomplish in a long term care facility, the most important is the quality of life we create. People who come to a nursing home often give up a great deal—and this is usually their last home. We have an opportunity to make it one of their best homes—a place with laughter, compassion, wonderful care, dignity, a wealth of activities, and friendship."

Although different departments at the Veterans Home recognize individual staff members like nurses or nursing assistants on specific days, the entire Veterans Home celebrates National Nursing Home Week in order to honor all employees at the same time. Howe says, "We believe that the whole is much greater than the sum of our parts. Here at the Veterans Home every employee—no matter what their job—can be the most important employee at the Veterans Home. If a housekeeper, a kitchen worker, a nurse or nursing assistant, an administrator, a recreation therapist, a physical therapist, or a social worker can make a difference in a resident's life each day, we have every reason to celebrate."

Barry Conway, NHVH Commandant, agrees. He says, "Everything we've accomplished until today is important, but it's just the beginning. What really matters is 'now.' When people move into the Veterans Home, we become a large part of their world. It is both an honor and a huge responsibility. We are worldmakers."

NHVH will celebrate National Nursing Home Week with scores of ongoing resident-centered activities like Tai Chi, the Reminisce Group, the Writing Group, Cribbage

Tournaments, Art Classes, Fitness Groups, Volleyball, Bingo, Sports Trivia, Book Discussion Group, Cooking Classes, Fishing at the NHVH Pond, Woodworking, Religious Services, and much more. A special "Spring Fling" Dance will be held on Wednesday, May 16 and other musical events will be offered throughout the week. The NHVH Employee Benefit Committee will sponsor Caribbean Paradise Day on Monday, May 14, Favorite Sports Day on Wednesday, May 16, and Western Theme Day with a Baked Bean/Chili Cook-off on Friday, May 18.

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the 2007 Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the modern facility is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

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